

REMARKS

Claims 9-23, 25 and 26 were pending in the application. Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 9-23, 25, and 26 will be pending and under active consideration. Claims 9 and 20 are independent.

In response to the Office Action entitled "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121" dated February 27, 2004 (Paper No. 22), Applicants respectfully submit that previously canceled Claims 1-8 had inadvertently not been included in the section of the Response entitled "Amendment To The Claims". Claims 1-8 had been previously canceled by way of the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 21, 2000. Accordingly, to be fully responsive under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(h), Applicants have provided herewith the required entire "Amendments to the Claims" Section of the Response filed on October 20, 2003 (Paper No. 21). This document provides the full set pending Claims 9-23, 25 and 26, as well as the previously canceled Claims 1-8. The document also provides the claim status identifier required for each claim.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the remarks made herein into the file history of the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-identified Office Action are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

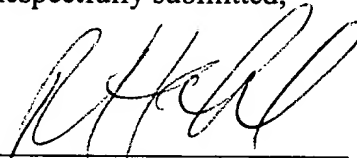
Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants believe there is no additional fee due in connection with this filing. However, to the extent required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: October 15, 2004

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